Font Substitution in the TNT Products

The cross-platform nature of TNTmips makes layout and atlas designers familiar with one of the difficulties experienced by graphic designers from the moment graphic design was computerized—the fonts you used for the text in the layout may not be available on another computer. Many fonts are licensed and, therefore, cannot be freely distributed. This missing font problem exists within a single platform and is worse when you transfer your layout across platforms. When a specified font is not found on a computer, the text does not disappear; a font substitution is made. Many automatic font substitutions use a mono-spaced font, such as Courier, to replace any font not found without regard for the type of font being replaced. Some programs will let you choose which font to substitute for the missing font, which if you recognize the missing font name, will help in your selection. The TNT products offer two kinds of font substitution: considerate automatic and designer specified.

Considerate automatic font substitution uses information about the missing font to choose the font to substitute. For example, sans serif fonts are replaced by other sans serif fonts. The fonts used for substitution are listed below. Designer specified font substitution lets the layout/atlas designer specify the fonts to try if the first specified font is not found. The desired font and fallback fonts are specified in the form {~Farialbd.ttf,Helvetica.dfont;2,Arial-Bold.ttf}, which would use Arial bold if it was found, Helvetica bold would be the next choice, and then the Sun version of Arial bold. This particular example would not need to be entered by the designer since it is done automatically by the TNT products. If none of the fonts specified by the designer are found, the automatic fallback fonts are used.

on PC in Arial as originally designed

on Mac with unknown font
substitution handled by Mac

on Mac with Helvetica font
substitution handled by TNTmips

Platform	Font Family	Font File Name*	Platform	Font Family	Font File Name
Windows	Sans	arial.ttf	Mac OS X	Sans	Helvetica.dfont:1
	SansBold	arialbd.ttf		SansBold	Helvetica.dfont;2
	Fixed	cour.ttf		Fixed	Courier.dfont;1
	FixedBold	courbd.ttf		FixedBold	Courier.dfont;2
	Serif	times.ttf		Serif	Times.dfont;1
	Serif Bold	timesbd.ttf		Serif Bold	Times.dfont;2
	SerifItalic	timesi.ttf		SerifItalic	Times.dfont;3
	SerifBoldItalic	timesbi.ttf		SerifBoldItalic	Times.dfont;4
Sun	Sans	Arial.ttf	Linux	Sans	helr____.ttf**
	SansBold	Arial-Bold.ttf		SansBold	helb____.ttf
	SansItalic	Arial-Italic.ttf		SansItalic	heli____.ttf
	SansBoldItalic	Arial-BoldItalic.ttf		SansBoldItalic	helbi___.ttf
	Fixed	CourierNew.ttf		Serif	timr____.ttf
	FixedBold	CourierBold.ttf		Serif Bold	timb____.ttf
	FixedItalic	CourierItalic.ttf		SerifItalic	timi____.ttf
	FixedBoldItalic	CourierBoldItalic.ttf		SerifBoldItalic	timbi___.ttf
	Serif	TimesNewRoman.ttf	outline	Sans	duck.of
	Serif Bold	TimesNewRoman-Bold.ttf	font	Fixed	raven.of
	SerifItalic	TimesNewRoman-Italic.ttf	fallbacks	Serif	cardinal.of
	SerifBoldItalic	TimesNewRoman-BoldItalic.ttf			

* Find the font file name to enter by clicking on the Font button anywhere you can enter text. The font file name is listed in parentheses. Do not use the font file name provided in Support/Setup/Fonts.

** Underlines to equal eight characters.